

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 4, 2007, is respectfully requested in view of this amendment. By this amendment, claims 21-32 have been cancelled, and new claims 33-43 have been inserted. Claims 33-43 are pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

The cancellation of claims 21-32 and the limitations as applied to the remaining independent claims is made without prejudice to later prosecution of the subject matter of these claims in this application or a subsequent continuation application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,486,407 to Hawker et al. (hereinafter referred to as "*Hawker*").

By this Response and Amendment, claims 21-32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 33-43 are newly added.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83.

RESPONSE

The objection relates to Item 3. The Examiner's attention is respectfully called to a correction to the drawings, proposed on November 11, 2006, and re-submitted (with the reference "Replacement Sheet") on November 22, 2006. This sheet is believed to address the issue of Item 3, which identifies a cable appearing at the bottom of the page.

Accordingly, the objections to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims as failing to conform to US practice.

RESPONSE

It is submitted that the replacement claims correct this problem and present the subject matter in a manner which is easily understood and which meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. In particular, it is submitted that the newly presented claims are not narrative or indefinite.

Prior Art Rejections

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hawker*.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant traverses the Examiner's anticipation and obviousness rejections since all of the features of the presently claimed subject matter are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art. For a reference to anticipate an invention, all of the elements of that invention must be present in the reference. The test for anticipation under section 102 is whether each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP §2131. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish that the prior art references teach or suggest all of the claim features. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Independent claim 33 recites:

"... a first end ... adapted to connect directly to ... a switch board ... further comprising a plurality of sockets which are electrically connected to the backbone ... the sockets ... located at spaced apart locations through a building for convenient connection thereto."

The Hawker et al. '407 patent discloses an electricity distribution system such as a power strip that has adjustable outlets. Hawker fails to show or suggest the features of sockets electrically connected to the backbone and located at spaced apart locations through a building.

In particular, Applicant submits that *Hawker* does not disclose any of the following features of the newly amended claim 33 to the present invention:

"a first end thereof being adapted to connect directly to an incoming mains power supply at a switch board of the building"

In contrast, the power strip of *Hawker* has an electrical connector 25 that is "adapted to be plugged into a source of electricity, e.g. an electrical outlet in a household or workplace."
(column 3/line 3)

"a plurality of sockets which are electrically connected to the backbone at spaced apart locations along the length thereof"

In contrast, the power strip of *Hawker* has cables 40 connected to a cable 20 by bus system 30 at what is in effect the same location for each electrical connector 48 along the length of the power strip. This then severely limits the extent to which the electrical connectors can be physically spaced apart.

Accordingly, Applicant contends that claim 33 is novel, and non-obvious. Further, Applicant submits that each of the dependent claims are novel but not obvious, given their successive dependencies upon this independent claim.

CLAIM 35

Applicant submits that *Hawker* does not disclose any of the following features of the newly amended claim 35 to the present invention:

"at least one substantially continuous length of cable comprised of at least two electrically insulated sets of electrically conducting cores of substantially continuous length"

In contrast, the cable 20 of *Hawker* is comprised of only one electrically insulated set of electrically conducting cores (conductors 22), whereas, with reference to Figure 3 of the present application, the cable 30 is illustrated as comprising three sets (32, 34 and 36) of electrically conducting cores.

Similarly, each of the cables 40 stemming from bus system 30 and terminating at sockets (electrical connectors 48) is comprised of only one electrically insulated set of electrically conducting cores (conductors 42)

"there being for the or each cable a set of electrical sockets, each of which is electrically connected to a separate set of the electrically conducting cores thereof"

In contrast, each of the sockets (electrical connectors 48) in *Hawker* is electrically connected via the bus system 30 to the one and only set of electrically conducting cores (conductors 22) that comprise the cable 20. The loom according to the present invention then is far less susceptible to electrical overload than the power strip of *Hawker*.

Accordingly, Applicant contends that claim 35 would be novel, and non-obvious even if were not dependent upon claim 33.

Since all of the features of newly added claims 33-43 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art, the cited prior art references, alone or in combination with each other neither anticipate the newly added claims nor render them obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

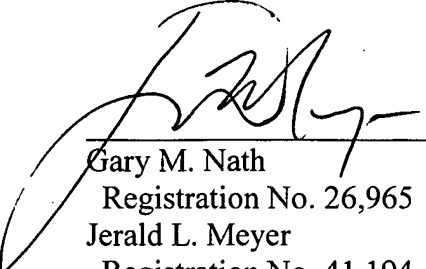
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
THE NATH LAW GROUP

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THE NATH LAW GROUP
112 South West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2891
Tel: 703-548-6284
Fax: 703-683-8396



Gary M. Nath
Registration No. 26,965
Jerald L. Meyer
Registration No. 41,194
Stanley N. Protigal
Registration No. 28,657
Customer No. 20529